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Kozar's "Sweet tea for the soul: Down-home devotions to comfort the heart" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Kozar, Linda. (2016). *Sweet tea for the soul: Down-home devotions to comfort the heart*. Siloam Springs, AR: Dayspring. 189 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 9781684082230

American author Linda Kozar has written over 28 traditional and independently published books. A current member of the board of the Christian Authors Network, she is also a recipient of the ADFW's Mentor of the Year Award. Her 90-day devotional *Sweet Tea for the Soul* is written from a country-living perspective. The title and cover artwork conjure up images of front porch country living, sweet tea drinking, and conversational evenings in the southern United States.

Each daily devotional focuses on a specific theme using three separate elements to drive the message home. It begins with an extract from scripture, followed by a paragraph expounding on the lesson of the day through biblical stories, life observations or sometimes humorous anecdotes. The devotional concludes with a "Faith check", reminding the reader to be conscious of the moral contained within the scripture passage, and how to apply this message in their daily lives. The devotional content is brief enough to be contained on a single page. The opposite page features an inspirational quote, again reflecting the daily theme. Some quotes are old country aphorisms while others are quotes by individuals such as C. S. Lewis, Helen Keller, W.C. Fields and Bob Ross, to name but a few.

In the preface, entitled "Message to the Readers", the author reflects on the strength of the Christian faith in rural America, and how the simplicity of country-living and scripture go hand in hand. One might be fooled into thinking that this was "just another devotional", but this inspirational book features some wonderful engaging life themes, both major and minor, and the use of down-home country humor is refreshing. This book brings back some good ole' country wit and wisdom making for a very enjoyable read.

This is not an academic book and it certainly does not pretend to be. It is a grounded, well-constructed devotional that will bring a smile to your face, while simultaneously evoking thoughtful reflection on scripture, and how to apply it practically and spiritually within daily life. *Sweet Tea for the Soul* is a refreshing change of pace, which gives the reader a respite from busy, complicated and stressful modern life, while highlighting common sense cultural living. The use of humor and wit throughout, is a gentle reminder that laughter and joy are essential parts of living.

Reviewer

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